



State Community Health Worker Advisory Committee Meeting

October 28, 2019

Meeting Overview

- Opening Items
- CHW Certification Program Implementation
- State Classifications for CHWs
- Advisory Committee Next Steps
- Committee Meeting Dates for 2020
- Open Discussion
- Adjournment

CHW Certification Program Implementation

CHW Proposed Regulations Update

- Title 10 Maryland Department of Health
Subtitle 68 Community Health Workers
 - 10.68.01 Certification of Community Health Workers
 - 10.68.02 Community Health Worker Certification Training Programs
- Oct. 25 publication in the Maryland Register and 30-day comment period began
 - <http://www.dsd.state.md.us/MDR/mdregister.html>
- Anticipated effective date of Dec. 30, 2019

Certification Update

- Certification for experienced CHWs opened on Sept. 1
 - pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-Program.aspx
- OneStop hosts application portal
- Review process
 - 3-step
 - Upon complete application submission, average 1 week to process application
- Application Assistance
 - Email: MDH.CHWApplications@Maryland.gov
 - Phone line: 410-767-5971

Certification Update

Certification update for September 1, 2019 – October 25, 2019

- **Applications started (in draft): 119**
- **Applications submitted: 68**
- **Certificates issued: 41**

Outreach and Communication

<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-Program.aspx>



Certification is now available for experienced community health workers in Maryland!

A **Community health worker (CHW)** is a frontline public health worker who is often a member of and has a close understanding of the community served. This relationship enables a CHW to serve as a liaison between health and social services and the community. CHWs facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competency of service delivery. CHWs are known by many titles including community health representatives, community health advisors, community health outreach workers, outreach specialists, patient navigators, lay health advisors, promotores de salud, peer counselors and others.

Certification for CHWs is voluntary. You may continue to work as a CHW without being certified. There is **no fee to apply for certification.**

Benefits of certification for CHWs: Certification acknowledges the CHW workforce and profession; recognizes a CHW's diverse skills and experience; and may further a CHW's education, career and employment goals.

Eligibility requirements for experienced CHWs to apply for certification:

- Occupied as a CHW on October 1, 2018;
- Be 18 years old or older;
- Have 2,000 hours of CHW paid or volunteer experience;
- Proficiency in CHW core competencies; and
- Two letters of validation from a current or former employer, supervisor or agency representative.

Certification applications will be accepted for experienced CHWs from **Sept. 1 through March 31, 2020.**

For full eligibility requirements and instructions on how to apply, visit <https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-Program.aspx>

For questions or more information, contact the MDH CHW certification team by email at MDH.CHWApplications@Maryland.gov or call 410-767-5971.

- “Certification for experienced CHWs”
- [Updated materials](#)
- Direct applicants to application webpage



Outreach and Communication

Certification Application Webinars

English Language Live Webinar

- Saturday, November 16 @ 10 AM
- Tuesday, November 19 @ 12 noon
- Wednesday, November 20 @ 7 p.m.

Spanish Language Live Webinar

- Second week in December

English and Spanish Language 5-minute webinar (to be posted on website)

- 10 steps to a successful CHW Certification Application
 - Posted by mid-November

Outreach and Communication

- Advisory Committee assistance in sharing information, by email and word-of-mouth.
- Notification to Community Health Outreach Workers employed by the State of Maryland.
- Public relations event in new year to highlight certification opportunity and the start of the process to accredit CHW certification training programs.

State Community Health Outreach Workers

MDH Community Health Outreach Workers

Jurisdiction	Count of Work Location County
Allegany County	18
Baltimore City	1
Calvert County	18
Caroline County	8
Carroll County	35
Cecil County	14
Dorchester County	22
Frederick County	26
Garrett County	13
Harford County	3
Howard County	17
Kent County	32
Queen Anne's County	3
Somerset County	5
St. Mary's County	32
Talbot County	35
Washington County	18
Wicomico County	13
Worcester County	21
Grand Total	334

Position	Count of Position Status
Comm Hlth Outreach Worker I	188
Closed	2
Filled	51
Open	135
Comm Hlth Outreach Worker II	148
Filled	59
Frozen	1
Open	88
Total CHOW Positions	336

Note: Baltimore City and Baltimore, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Prince George's Counties not included.



MDH Community Health Outreach Workers

What types of programs in location health departments?

- WIC
- Substance Abuse Services
- Health Promotion
- Medical Assistance
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program
- Health Education – Tobacco
- Healthy Families
- Maternal Child Health
- Behavioral Health
- and many more

What types of duties?

- Providing education
- Transportation
- Assisting clients in accessing information and services
- Outreach to community to identify health needs
- Provide follow-up services
- Maintains documentation
- Prepares, assembles and distributes approved materials
- and many more

State Community Health Outreach Worker Positions

Community Health Outreach Worker I

Grade: 06

Salary range: \$25,401 – \$39,284

- Learns to perform duties under close supervision
- Entry level
- Graduated from HS or possess high school equivalent certificate

Community Health Outreach Worker II

Grade: 07

Salary Range: \$26,929 – \$41,786

- Performs full range of duties and responsibilities under general supervision
- Full performance level
- Graduated from HS or possess high school equivalent certificate
- One year of experience

State Community Health Outreach Worker Positions

Discussion and Advisory Committee Feedback

Next Steps

- Outreach and marketing
 - CHWs
 - Employers / supervisors
- Translation of materials into Spanish
- Training program accreditation process
- Individual certification and reciprocity certification
- Specialty certification

Committee Meeting Dates for 2020 (proposed)

- Quarterly meeting of full Advisory Committee - Mondays, 1 – 3 p.m., at MDH
 - February 10, 2020
 - May 18, 2020
 - August 17, 2020
 - November 16, 2020

Open Discussion

Certification Contacts and Links

Maryland CHW Certification Website

<https://pophealth.health.maryland.gov/Community-Health-Workers/Pages/Certification-Program.aspx>

Maryland CHW Phone Line

410-767-5971

Maryland CHW Email Addresses

MDH.CHW@Maryland.gov

MDH.CHWApplications@Maryland.gov

Contacts

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